

**From:** Matos, Rob  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 11/28/01 11:00am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I am writing this letter in order to voice my opinion regarding the settlement deal which the US Department of Justice has accepted in the anti-trust case vs. Microsoft.

I am appalled that the DOJ and several of the states in the original suit are even considering this settlement. The terms as suggested in the current proposal are not only unacceptably weak as a remedy, but are actually favorable to Microsoft.

For example, the part of the settlement deal where Microsoft is offering to provide money, computer hardware, Microsoft Software and Support to public schools, may seem like a good idea but it is obvious to anyone that the schools would then be much more likely to be "locked-in" to Microsoft technology and PC compatible hardware. In addition, students of those schools would be indoctrinated in the use of Microsoft software and PC compatible hardware, and would be more likely to purchase those brands in the future. This would also provide Microsoft and its hardware partners an easy way to write off unsold stock. Not much of a penalty in my opinion...

Microsoft defends all this by saying that the schools would be free to spend the money as they want and can decide to go with other software and hardware providers. However, even Microsoft acknowledges that schools which choose that route would not benefit from all the resources they are offering. How many schools systems do you think will opt for just the money, when they can get the whole ball of wax if they go with Microsoft software? If Microsoft's intent was to benefit schools while paying a "fine" why didn't they just offer to put money in a fund that could be used by the schools in any way they want?

While this offer may be tempting considering the desperate financial situation that many of our schools are in, we cannot allow as remedy an action which will help the company further strengthen their monopoly power. I am heartened to see that several of the states including Massachusetts are not joining the DOJ in accepting this appalling settlement. I would urge the DOJ to re-examine its decision. We cannot let political expedience and our sagging economy temper our punishment of a company which has been found to be anti-competitive, has done everything to find loopholes in previous remedy decisions and is attempting to use this settlement as a vehicle to continue its practices and open new revenue streams in the process.

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